

## TRAIN STUDENTS TO BETTER WORK

That Is the Work of Great  
Night School Being Conducted  
in Richmond.

75 MEN IN ATTENDANCE

Wide Range Is Covered in  
Teaching the Scientific and  
Mechanic Arts.

In this age of great social movements, the educational institutions play an inconsiderable part in the development of a community towards greater usefulness and service. The great purpose of education is to adapt the individual to his environment. The keynote of modern civilization, a result of Christian teaching, is the development of the individual, and it is in response to this demand for individual training at schools of various types have been established all over the world.

It is no longer deemed wise to force every child through a treadmill of the same design. Hence, there are schools of purely academic training, for manual training, for industrial training, trade schools and many other types of schools, more or less definite in their motives and aims.

**Protest Against System.**  
The recent abnormal growth of industrial and vocational schools is an evident protest against an educational system devoid of practical and direct advantages to the individual in his career.

Here in Richmond 65 per cent. of the white population earn their living by work with the hands, either as skilled workmen in the shops or as unskilled laborers, floating around from job to job.

The Virginia Mechanics' Institute was founded in 1854 and began a night school with a definite aim, viz., the training of apprentices. During the war the school was closed and its building used as a hospital. After the war the Virginia Department and Patent Office of the Confederacy. Again, in 1884, the work began and the first year had an enrollment of 117 students. The new charter states that the "corporation is formed for the purpose of educating and training students in the scientific and mechanic arts, and at present it maintains with the help of an appropriation from the city of Richmond one of the best night schools of technology in the country.

There are the names of 475 young men whose average age is nineteen years on the register and the school is allowed to enter under fifteen. No upper limit of age has been fixed either by the law of the school or custom of the students. The oldest student now in attendance is forty-three. This is the third largest body of white young men engaged in educational work in the State of Virginia. The University of Virginia and the Virginia Polytechnic Institute are the institutions where numbers are the greatest.

During the three months ending with December, the percentages of attendance was 88 per cent.

**An Able Faculty.**  
The faculty is composed of twenty-one men, selected from many vocations in this city. By this means the institution is enabled to command the services of men of high grade, whose teaching at night would be impossible during the day, and who are thus able to do the work at much less charge than they would be compelled to make if they had to depend upon this for their livelihood.

The elements of a technological course in mechanical science, drawing, and practical shop work. This training is offered at the Institute in night classes, which generally meet twice a week, one hour each, for classes which do not involve any manual work, and twice a week, two hours each, for those which involve the intellectual work of the shop.

During the last few years excellent laboratories have been established for the study of electricity, physics and chemistry, and the students themselves are trained to a more practical and thorough knowledge of these sciences by means of such courses.

A picture of the students' chemical laboratory is shown on this page. During the past year the school of mechanical engineering has been put on an excellent footing by offering to the young men of the city a field of study in engineering. Course B, elementary applied mechanics; Course C, steam machinery. In all of these courses the students are trained in the use of instruments of precision and make the necessary experiments in the laboratory. It is hoped that the school will have a plant for school purposes in which testing of machinery can be made.

**A New Course.**  
During the last six months the study of higher algebra, including the treatment of binomial theorem and elementary geometry, has been added.

**GET INSIDE.**  
Our Friends and Neighbors in Richmond Will Show You How.

Rubbing the back won't cure backache. A liniment may relieve, but can't cure. Backache comes from the inside—Doan's Kidney Pills get inside—They cure sick kidneys. Here is Richmond proof that this is so.

J. H. Rudd, 407 West Clay Street, Richmond, Va., says: "I think just as highly of Doan's Kidney Pills to-day as when I publicly recommended them several years ago after they had cured me of kidney trouble. Previous to taking them I had sharp, shooting pains through my loins and back, always made more intense by overexertion. In action, often obliging me to stop several times at night. When I took Doan's Kidney Pills, I was told to get a box at the Druggists and Minor Drug Co., and after using them according to directions for some time was rewarded with a cure. There has never been a return of the trouble, and my appreciation of this remedy."

For sale by all dealers. Price, 50 cents. Post-Office Box, Buffalo, N. Y., sole agents for the United States. Remember the name—Doan's—and like no other.

**PRO-PHY-TOL**  
REFRESH THE MOUTH

## Laboratory Work In Virginia Mechanics' Institute



mentary series has been established as a preparation for a course in actuarial science, or the theory of life insurance. To further the best interests of this course the following books have been added to the library: "Life Assurance Primer," Henry Mori; "Principles and Practice of Life Insurance," Willey and Mori; two volumes of the text book of the Institute of Actuaries, by George King.

During the last six months of 1908 the library received the following accessions by gift or purchase: "Educational Wood Working for School and Home," Park; "Apollo," Reinach; "Cost, Capitalization and Estimated Value of American Railways," Thompson; "Princess Elopes," MacGrath; "Misjudged," Helmberg; "Mademoiselle Delaney," Macker; "General History," Myers; "Ancient History," Myers; "The Middle Ages," Myers; "The Life of the Greeks and Romans," Gull and Koser; "Concrete Construction for Home and Farm," Atlas Portland Cement Company; "Reinforced Concrete in Factory Construction," Atlas Portland Cement Company; "Concrete Country Residences," John Fox, Jr.; "Elementary Engineering," Norris; "The Gas Engine," Hutton; "Gas, Gasolene and Oil Engines," Hiscok; "Audel's Gas Engine Manual," Audel and Company.

It will be observed that these books cover a wide range of subjects, namely: History, biography, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering; drawing and sculpture; shop practice and general literature. Members and students are allowed to take books home for two weeks, and any citizen may make use of the library and reading-room during the hours from 10 to 2 o'clock in the morning and from 6:30 to 9:30 in the evening. The reading-room is provided with about twenty of the leading weekly and monthly periodicals.

**FARMER STUDENTS ARE A BUSY LOT**  
Fifty-Four Agriculturists Are Now Attending Winter Course at the Institute.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
BLACKSBURG, VA., January 23.—Fifty-four students have matriculated to date in the "Short Course in Agriculture" at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and five more have written definitely that they will enter Monday of next week. This will just triple the enrollment of last year, and the success as well as the permanency of the school seems assured. Two ladies—Mrs. Sadie Carter, of Chatham Hill, Smyth county, Va., and Miss Lora Hurt, of Roanoke—are among the students, and attend the lectures with as much promptness and interest as the men.

They are a busy lot, these farmer school children. Lectures begin at 9 in the morning and continue until 12:30, when there is an intermission for dinner. In the afternoon for two hours there are practical demonstrations and the working out of theories that have been taught in the class room previously.

The evening lectures are attended not only by the students in the winter school, but many of the cadets and people of the community. These being illustrated with lantern slides, are not only interesting, but are practical and instructive to every one. President Barringer has spoken on "The Mosquito and Diseases," Professor Smyth on "Insectivorous and Grain Birds," Dr. J. G. Thompson made an address Wednesday evening on "Farm Judging," and these are only a few of the subjects that will be handled, either by members of the faculty or specially invited speakers.

Thursday was "Corn Day," and addresses were made on the growing and care of this grain by Mr. T. O. Sandy, of Burkeville; Judge Cassell, of Radford; Dr. C. U. Gray, of Front Royal; representatives of the United States Department of Agriculture, and members of the Institute faculty. Samples of corn, grown by the farmers of Virginia, were on exhibition, and prizes for the best display were given. These were donated by various firms in the State, and the recipients will be announced later.

The school will continue in session until February 12th, and students may enter at any time. A number of farmers who do not matriculate come for a day or so at a time, many being unable to leave their homes for a longer period. The lectures are open to the public, and all are made welcome.

## FUTURE OF ROAD BEING WATCHED

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]  
BLACKSBURG, VA., January 23.—

Little surprise was caused here by the announcement that receivers had been appointed for the Virginia Anthracite Coal Company and the Virginia Anthracite Railway Company. The two are practically the same company, and it had been known for some time that the financial condition was bad. By many the receivership is regarded as the preliminary to the acquisition of the road by the Norfolk and Western or the Virginian. The "short line" has its terminus at Christiansburg, on the Norfolk and Western, and the Virginian crosses it near the Merrimac mines, half way between Blacksburg and Christiansburg. It would be valuable to either, but only for the local business, but for the possibility of development and extension through a section of the country north and east of Blacksburg, rich in farming lands and minerals, but without railroad facilities at present.

The Anthracite road was built by a company of Northern capitalists, of which Mr. W. J. Payne was president, and the first train was operated in the fall of 1902. The company also bought considerable coal land along the line, and machinery was installed at Christiansburg. A small town sprung up, miners were brought in and employment given to resident laborers. For two years work was plentiful, and many small homes were built along the line of the railroad from Christiansburg to Blacksburg, and the improvement in business conditions was felt in these towns, as well as throughout the country.

**Output Reduced.**

Two years ago the output of coal at the mines was greatly reduced. When the panic came in 1907 the mines shut down entirely, due, it was said at the time, to the general business depression in the country, but no coal worth speaking of has been gotten out since. At the same time the railroad began to fall behind in paying the employees, and many of these, as well as all the men who had been at work in the mines, were forced to seek work elsewhere. The equipment of the road was in bad order and money was lacking to make the necessary repairs. This condition continues until the present.

With a reorganization of the company and the bringing in of ready money and modern methods of doing business it is believed by all who know the situation that the railroad and the mining properties can both be made profitable. This country is rich in minerals, especially coal, that lies not far from the surface and only requires capital for its development. The railroad does a good passenger and freight business, handling these for Blacksburg, the V. P. L. and a considerable portion of Giles, Montgomery and Craig counties, and the possibilities in extension are great.

Industrial conditions in this section have been greatly improved by the building of the Virginian Road, and the prosperity, even though short-lived, of the Virginia Anthracite Railway Company. The natural resources are here in abundance and of every variety; it only lacks the development of a railroad and the consequent bringing in of capital to make it a rich field for the investor, a source of revenue for the laboring man, and an ideal location for the home-seeker.

**CONFEDERATES' HOME DEDICATED.**

Major Holmes Conrad, Rev. R. H. McKim and Major R. W. Hunter, Secretary of Virginia Records, will hereafter edit the Confederate columns of The Times-Dispatch.

Communications should be addressed to him, care Times-Dispatch.

since his death. His whole life is open to the gaze and scrutiny of the world. "The fierce light," which Tennessee tells us "beats upon a record of a battle in which genius and audacity triumphed so splendidly over tremendous odds as Lee displayed at Chancellorsville."

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But we have not time to-night, my dear comrades, to fight against our old battles. I must hurry on.

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It is not, however, only as a war god among his brave and devoted soldiers in the storm of battle, on the march, or on the defensive, that we remember him, but as a noble and generous man, who, in the midst of the most terrible of wars, found time to think of his old friends and family, and to write to them from his headquarters. For I recall with infinite pleasure the several occasions when I met him at his home in Winchester, and had the honor of dining with him and his family on the last Christmas of the war. His dignified

and distinguished as military students and critics, Colonel Lawler says: "But, after all, the one name which in connection with the great American Civil War (which will go down to posterity in history as a condition as above all others, a postscriptum and a tradition supererogant, is the name of Robert Edward Lee." And Col. Chesney, who says: "The day will come when... history will speak with a voice that will place above all others the name of Lee, the great chief of whom we have written. In strategy, might; in battle, terrible; in adversity and in prosperity a hero indeed; with the simple devotion to duty and the rare purity of the ideal Christian knight, he joined all the kingly qualities of a leader of men."

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The significance of these tributes to the great commander whom we loved so well, and whose flag we feel so proud to have followed, will not be fully appreciated unless it is borne in mind that they came spontaneously from the lips of men who were not only British and American, but also British and American, and that the world has known since the downfall of Rome, and a nation which can boast among its heroes, of a Marlborough and of a Wellington, styled by Tennyson, "England's greatest," "if that gained a hundred fights, And never lost an English gun."

The failure of the righteous cause for which he fought can never obscure the fame which attaches to the marvelous genius, the superb prowess, and the matchless generalship, with which, from his assumption of the command of the Army of Northern Virginia, he confronted, and with greatly inferior numbers and resources won victory after victory over his gigantic foe, unhorsing in succession five of the commanders of the opposing army—first, McClellan, then Pope, then Burnside, then Hooker, then Meade, and finally Grant, who only escaped a similar fate in the Wilderness because Gordon's attack on his right flank on the 6th of May was delayed, under a misapprehension of his superior in command, until too late in the day to be decisive as was Jackson's famous blow on Hooker's exposed flank at Chancellorsville, a delay for which, as the official record shows, neither Lee nor Gordon was responsible.

It is hard to decide which of General Lee's grand campaigns is entitled to precedence, but I think the majority of military students incline to the opinion that the campaign from the Wilderness to Cold Harbor was the most brilliant of the whole war. Major-General Hoke, one of the ablest of his rank in our army, says: "If ever a man's record of a battle in which genius and audacity triumphed so splendidly over tremendous odds as Lee displayed at Chancellorsville."

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It is not, however, only as a war god among his brave and devoted soldiers in the storm of battle, on the march, or on the defensive, that we remember him, but as a noble and generous man, who, in the midst of the most terrible of wars, found time to think of his old friends and family, and to write to them from his headquarters. For I recall with infinite pleasure the several occasions when I met him at his home in Winchester, and had the honor of dining with him and his family on the last Christmas of the war. His dignified

and distinguished as military students and critics, Colonel Lawler says: "But, after all, the one name which in connection with the great American Civil War (which will go down to posterity in history as a condition as above all others, a postscriptum and a tradition supererogant, is the name of Robert Edward Lee." And Col. Chesney, who says: "The day will come when... history will speak with a voice that will place above all others the name of Lee, the great chief of whom we have written. In strategy, might; in battle, terrible; in adversity and in prosperity a hero indeed; with the simple devotion to duty and the rare purity of the ideal Christian knight, he joined all the kingly qualities of a leader of men."

At the risk of exceeding my time I must be allowed to give this extract from an editorial of the London Standard of October, 1870, when General Lee died: "Fewer greatnesses the Standard said, 'A loftier nature, a spirit more unselfish, a character purer, more chivalrous the world has rarely, if ever, known. Of stainless life and deep religious feeling, yet free from all taint of fanaticism, and as dear and congenial to the Cavalier Stuart as the Puritan Stonewall Jackson; unambitious, but ready to sacrifice all at the call of duty; devoted to his cause, yet never moved by his feelings beyond the line prescribed by his judgment; never more than a just reward to punish wanton cruelty by reprisals, which would have given a character of needless savagery to the war. Both North and South owe a deep debt of gratitude to him, and the time will come when both will be equally proud of him. And well they may, for his character and his life afford a complete answer to the reproaches cast on money-grubbing, mechanical America. A country which has given him to the world has no need to look the chivalry of Europe in the face; for the fatherlands of Sidney and Bayard never produced a nobler soldier, gentleman and Christian than General Robert E. Lee."

The significance of these tributes to the great commander whom we loved so well, and whose flag we feel so proud to have followed, will not be fully appreciated unless it is borne in mind that they came spontaneously from the lips of men who were not only British and American, but also British and American, and that the world has known since the downfall of Rome, and a nation which can boast among its heroes, of a Marlborough and of a Wellington, styled by Tennyson, "England's greatest," "if that gained a hundred fights, And never lost an English gun."

With respect to battles, it is agreed among military men most competent to judge, that history furnishes no record of a battle in which genius and audacity triumphed so splendidly over tremendous odds as Lee displayed at Chancellorsville.

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